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Remedies for the situation, as submitted by the editors, various Peiping hospitals, and the Peiping Union Medical College, included the following:

1. Investigation of the condition of newspaper reading and the state of political appetites.
2. Organization of newspaper-reading sections and discussion groups.
3. Initiation of periodic examinations on current national and international affairs.
4. Display of important national and international news items in prominent places inside the buildings.

On 22 March 1952, the Peiping organ also carried a letter which reported the findings of a Land-Reform Delegation consisting of professors and students from Nan-ch'ang Normal. Shortcomings in newspaper indoctrination work among local peasants were criticized: peasants in Feng-ch'eng Hsien were totally ignorant of the current three and five anti's campaigns, and one village, only 7 li from Nan-ch'ang, did not subscribe to party newspapers. Propaganda and educational organs were exhorted to use newspapers in peasant indoctrination activity, and postal workers were told to ensure paper deliveries to the area.

On 12 April 1952, letters appearing in the Letters to the Editor column of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao revealed that the Public Health Bureau of the Peiping Municipal People's Government had been apathetic to this censure and that many medical workers at Peiping Municipal Hospital No 1 had no knowledge of the criticism. Other letters indicated that measures had been taken to correct the situation.

The full texts of the letters of censure and of the replies are given below.

A. Letters to the Editor, Peiping "Jen-min Jih-pao," 22 March 1952

1. Editors Criticize Political Indifference

The editorial desk of this newspaper has received letters from comrades Yuan Cheng, Chao Ying-shih, et al., criticizing indifference to newspaper reading in Peiping Union Medical College and Peiping Hospital No 3. These have served to point up the attitude of cadres and functionaries in various regions and agencies with regard to newspaper reading. We have sent reporters to Peiping Hospital No 3, Pei-ta Hospital, and Central People's Hospital to investigate and have found that the negligence of medical personnel in newspaper reading has reached serious proportions.

According to this investigation, the number of personnel who read newspapers earnestly and regularly is very small. Most of them will read a paper if they happen upon it; if not, it makes little difference to them. Other employees are completely illiterate.

In the Visiting Nurses Department of Peiping Hospital No 3, of 50-odd medical workers, one fifth do not read the papers and only six of the others are earnest in their reading. Pei-ta Hospital has a total of 432 doctors, nurses, and employees of newspaper literacy. Of these, only 17 percent read the papers seriously, and 49 percent read absolutely no newspapers. The rest just scan the headlines. Many employees are, consequently, completely ignorant of the pertinent facts regarding the great three and five anti's campaigns.

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Political indifference is the principal source of reading negligence among hospital employees. Although the political consciousness of many health workers is daily increasing, their demands for newspapers have still not been met by timely aid and enlightened leadership. There have arisen in leadership circles conditions which prevent top-level functionaries from quickly correcting shortcomings. Some leaders are not alive to the truth that our newspapers are the primary instruments for effecting, on the practical level, indoctrination in Marxism-Leninism and the ideology of Mao Tse-tung, the organization and motivation of the masses, and, as primary indoctrination agents, the implementation of correct party and governmental policy. Such leaders do not faithfully lead hospital personnel to newspaper reading. Also, administrative quarters are unable to supply personnel with the optimum number of newspapers. For example, Pei-ta Hospital has approximately 1,000 medical workers and patients but only 25 newspapers. This is another reason why the masses have not been able to read newspapers.

We hope that responsible leaders will consider this problem seriously and correct the indifference to newspaper reading among hospital personnel. An immediate and thorough investigation should be undertaken and a newspaper study system, with organizations capable of meeting mass needs, shall be set up. Various techniques should be employed to arouse and nurture reading appetites and the political consciousness of the masses. We hope that leadership cadres and political workers in the various organs will investigate and correct incomplete and inefficient reading activity and inform this paper regularly by mail. -- The Editors

2. Readers Criticize Neglect of Newspaper Reading at Peiping Union Medical College

Comrade Editor:

Although the fatherland is now engaged in the great Resist America-Aid Korea, the Production Increase and Austerity, and the three anti's campaigns, there are many persons openly indifferent to newspaper reading. Peiping Union Medical College has some of these persons. We recognize that such serious conditions had to be exposed and corrected.

First, we investigated newspaper reading among hospital workers: of 300-odd (including professors, doctors, nurses, and hospital assistants), 142 are newspaper readers but rarely read beyond the headlines, 145 will not or do not read the papers regularly, and 21 never read the papers. In a word, over half do not read newspapers -- an alarming percentage. The library of the Peiping Union Medical College has not subscribed for even one copy of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao:

Many employees maintain that they do not read the papers because they are too busy. Some nurses say: "After an 8-hour workday, we are so tired that we just hurry home to rest," leaving no time for reading. As a matter of fact, after leaving work, they feed their canaries, listen to phonograph records, and plan their new habits -- solely thoughts concerning pleasures. Nurse Chiang I-ch'ien conceded, "At Peiping Union Medical College I was not only able to study specialist techniques which could give me a very high specialist's rating, but also lived in excellent style, ate the best food, and became completely Westernized."

There is, among the nurses, a deep feeling of being "mere employees." This has caused general indifference to important national matters. Throughout the day they carry about with them the notion that "If you pay us with money, we will come to work on time but at the end of the day, we will hurry home

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to look after the children." Some professors and doctors are wholly concerned with research for their scientific theses and in rushing around the wards, neither hearing nor asking questions about outside matters. Several professors consider it a nuisance to participate in study sections, asking "If we are to be servants of the people, why must we read these newspapers and study politics?" During classes, when students demanded that a period be set aside for political studies, the professors rejected the proposal, averring that the curricula allowed no time for such studies.

This neglect of newspaper reading is a manifestation of serious political indifference and has created political backwardness at Peiping Union Medical College. During the three anti's campaign, some middle and small corrupt elements at the college, having failed to read newspapers and heed governmental policies, could not cast off their ideological biases. It was later discovered that even during the five anti's campaign, some persons were totally ignorant of the movement. Of greater importance, 2 days after the bestial US bacteriological warfare atrocities were published in the papers, there were still persons at the college totally ignorant of the matter. How can we be of greater service to the people with such hospital workers?

We cannot deny, of course, that the Peiping Union Medical College has, since liberation, made momentous progress under the guidance of the party and the people. During the Ideological Reform and the three anti's campaigns, many persons have undergone complete metamorphosis and made signal advances in political consciousness: over 1,000 persons have enlisted for bacteriological warfare defense work. We are aware, however, that this is insufficient and hope that medical workers, currently indifferent to national affairs, will be able to correct this defect, take interest in the people's newspaper, study the ideology of Mao Tse-tung, stand ever more resolute on the principle of service to the people, and share the burden of national reconstruction. -- Yuan Cheng, Hsieh Chi-liang, Li Ling-yuan, and Wen Chu-fang.

3. Doctor and Head Nurse Criticize Hospital Personnel

Comrade Editor:

Most workers at Peiping Municipal Hospital No 3 are indifferent to current events study. The condition is especially acute among nurses. We have recently learned that 40 percent of our nurses do not read the papers and that the others merely glance at the headlines. Regular and interested newspaper readers constitute a small minority. Therefore, nurses and other hospital workers either know very little or are totally unaware of vital current national matters. For example, many workers professed no knowledge of the fact -- prominently published in our papers -- that the bourgeoisie had mounted an organized, ferocious attack against us. Many hospital workers were totally ignorant of the Chi K'ai-fu Incident -- a matter closely related to their activities. [This incident involved the framing of a hospital worker by an executive of Wuhan Municipal Hospital.]

When questioned about this neglect of newspaper reading, some insisted that they were too busy. We know that this is not the real reason. It is, rather, personal political indifference. Upon our request, a female comrade recapitulated her daily program for us. There was no mention, however, of having felt obliged to read the daily paper. She remarked: "A day passes rapidly. Who has time for newspapers?" We detect in her words the old style of thinking -- the notion that laundry and mending are the primary chores of womankind. She has not yet come to realize that male and female must, in egalitarian union, participate actively in the reconstruction of the fatherland.

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Some persons maintain that in not reading the papers and disregarding important national matters, one may retain "purity and detachment." This is ridiculous! Indifference to political and current affairs is, consequently, universal among medical personnel. We have informed the medical workers' labor union and the executive leaders of the critical nature of this problem. We hope that a standard newspaper reading system and organization will be set up to ensure study, that seminars will be periodically convened, and that examinations in current affairs be effected to stimulate newspaper reading. -- Dr Chao Ying-shih and Head Nurse Wan Hui-chen, Peiping Municipal Hospital No 3

4. Reader Criticizes Poor Distribution of Party Papers
Among Peasant Populace

Comrade Editor:

Party newspapers are the pivots of mass propaganda, indoctrination, and organization. It is imperative that they reach ever-expanding worker and peasant audiences.

There are, in Feng-ch'eng Hsien, Kiangsi, many ch'u and hsiang government cadres who completely neglect the vital work of indoctrination through newspapers. During January and February 1952, professors and students of the Nan-ch'ang Normal Land-Reform Delegation visited 13 ch'u undergoing land reform in Feng-ch'eng Hsien and discovered that the following hsiang did not subscribe to any newspaper: Ts'ao-ch'i, Shang-tse, Ku-t'ang, and Shao-fang. The peasants in these hsiang thus were totally ignorant of the three and five anti's campaigns which have been carried on with great fanfare in the cities of China. Shih-li Hsiang, only 7 li from Nan-ch'ang, does not subscribe to a single newspaper. Ch'u and hsiang cadres excused themselves on grounds that "simplicity and austerity" or "lack of public funds" made newspaper subscriptions impractical.

Thus, political studies and understanding of current affairs in this rural area have been grossly neglected. This has, in turn, led to a failure to disseminate party and Central People's Government policy and decrees quickly and extensively to the peasant masses. It has impeded the growth of peasant political consciousness and the development of rural production. Propaganda and indoctrination organs in the area should recognize the utility of party newspapers in educating the masses. Postal distribution officers should work to disseminate the people's newspapers among the peasant masses. -- Chia Jen-sheng

B. Letters to the Editor, Peiping "Jen-min Jih-pao," 12 April 1952

1. Reader Rebukes Public Health Bureau for Indifference to Criticism

Comrade Editor:

The Public Health Bureau, Peiping Municipal People's Government, has failed to heed the criticism printed in the Letters to the Editor column in the 22 March 1952 issue of the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao. In dozens of hospitals, health establishments, and health corps, neglect of newspaper reading by personnel is extremely extensive. The Public Health Bureau has found no remedy for the situation. Even after criticism by the party newspaper, the bureau failed to investigate and correct the poor state of newspaper reading among individual health workers and to strengthen the current affairs and political studies of cadres as suggested by the party paper.

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Such indifference to newspaper criticism is entirely erroneous. I hope that the Public Health Bureau will immediately correct this error and that responsible leadership organs will issue a warning decree -- as sharp as that of the party newspaper -- that neglect of newspaper reading and study among subordinate cadres of the bureau be investigated and corrected. -- Hsiao Erh-wen

2. Editor Agrees With Reader's Criticism

The observations of reader Hsiao Erh-wen are timely. We hope that incumbent cadres in the Public Health Bureau, Peiping Municipal People's Government, will immediately effect the indoctrination of subordinate personnel in current affairs and political studies and ensure the reading of newspapers. This is training that will strengthen ideological and political leadership. -- The Editor

3. Peiping Municipal Hospital No 1 Investigates Current Affairs Study

Comrade Editor:

After reading the criticism in the 22 March 1952 issue of the party paper, we of Peiping Municipal Hospital No 1 have carried out an investigation.

The majority of our doctors are regularly able to read the papers, but a large number of our nurses and assistant nurses do not. Like certain personnel in other hospitals, they insist that they are too busy and have no time for reading. After the start of the three anti's campaign, these workers read newspapers less frequently. One obstetrician said: "Since I have little time for the movies, I no longer peruse the newspapers for movie advertisements." A nurse in surgery remarked that "In leisure moments, I must read surgical manuals, study English, and prepare, generally, to transfer from the hospital to a better job. I have no time left for newspaper reading." There are seven workers in her surgical section. At present, 3 months after the hospital subscribed to newspapers for them to read, two of them still know nothing about these papers.

Our hospital has many workers with no knowledge of important international and national matters, and, even more important, they had not heard of the criticism published in the 22 March 1952 issue of the party paper.

As a result of the investigation, we have come to realize that, currently, the basic problem in the hospital is political indifference. "No time to read" and "too busy" are excuses for indifference to newspaper study.

We desire to inform you of the situation as presented above and shall shortly improve our method of current affairs and political study. Upon reaching our goal, you will be informed by mail. -- Peiping Municipal Hospital No 1

4. Peiping Municipal Hospital No 2 Reforms Newspaper Reading Methods

Comrade Editor:

After reading the criticism of newspaper reading among hospital workers, we investigated and found that indifference to newspapers is very serious in our hospital. According to an investigation of 80-odd employees with newspaper literacy, more than half had not been reading newspapers. Those who regularly read the papers, did not draw correct conclusions from them. According to the results of oral tests, some know absolutely nothing of the "Thursday Dinner Society" in Chungking, the Chi A'ai-fu Incident in Wuhan, the current Moscow International Conference, and the International Peace Conference at Oslo.

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Why was such a state of affairs tolerated for so long? The major blame must fall to the leaders. According to our investigation, despite the fact that many employees wished to read newspapers, the leaders did not promptly meet their demands. Lu Keng-ch'uan, formerly deputy director of this hospital, was responsible for the political and ideological leadership of the entire hospital. He was, unfortunately, personally indifferent to all political matters, became decadent, and was, in the course of the three anti's campaign, relieved of his post. There is, consequently, little to show for the indoctrination of personnel in politics and current affairs. For our staff and medical workers totaling 150 persons, only four papers had been ordered (of which one copy was retained for the office of the director). In November 1951, under the weight of united mass demands, the quota was raised to eight papers. Since leadership was inferior in quality and no newspaper reading system had been effected, personnel disregard for papers remained uncorrected.

The Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao criticism has motivated our investigation of all hospital personnel. On 2 April 1952, all personnel gathered to discuss the problem and decided to set aside one hour daily for newspaper reading, after which formal and informal discussions on important topics would be held.

We hope that other hospitals and organs are able to investigate the condition of newspaper reading and study and correct all manifestations of political indifference. -- Administrative Office, Austerity Inspection Committee, Peiping Municipal Hospital No 2

5. Peiping Municipal Hospital No 4 To Improve Paper Reading

Comrade Editor:

Recently, we carried out an investigation of the condition of newspaper reading and study among personnel of the Peiping Municipal Hospital No 4 and found that of 90-odd employees with newspaper literacy, five or six remain indifferent to reading the papers. Many, because of such reading negligence, became gradually estranged from political subjects. For example, the bestial crime perpetrated by Ch'en Hsai-chiu, lecturer in chemistry, Chemistry Department, Wuhan University, who aided merchant Li Yin-t'ing in preparing first-aid bandages which later infected troops of the People's Liberation Army -- this crime which has aroused anger and resentment throughout China -- has gone completely unnoticed by these medical workers. Many were found to be totally ignorant of the matter.

When asked why they did not read the papers, many insisted that they were too busy with work schedules: "What time remains after participation in the three anti's, epidemic control, and our regular work?" Some say: "When time permits, we must read technical works; if not, we will surely fall from the ranks." It has even gone so far that some concede: "Basically, I have not cultivated the habit of reading newspapers." In point of fact, these are the real results of an apolitical, purely technical orientation.

In an effort to correct this grave condition of political indifference quickly and effectively, we have organized all hospital personnel and plan to carry out discussions on newspaper reading. We recognize the central problems to be suppression of erroneous political indifference, and creation of political appetites for careful and regular newspaper reading.

We must first carry through a four-point program for newspaper reading and study:

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- a. Organization of newspaper reading sections from hospital work committees, drafting of schedules for regular study, and incessant investigation and enforcement of study activity.
- b. Assignment of competent personnel to explain important political matters in simple terms to persons incapable of reading or correctly appraising newspaper articles.
- c. Designation of special areas in the hospital for maximum efficiency in dissemination and use of newspapers, and assignment of special personnel to control such distribution.
- d. Proper integration and centralization of campaigns for current affairs reporting and seminars, and periodic testing of personnel on newspaper reading aptitude and study achievements. -- Work Committee, Peiping Municipal Hospital No 4, Yin Tsung-ch'i

6. Peiping Municipal Hospital No 3 Organizes Newspaper Reading Sections

Comrade Editor:

We recognize that the criticism of 22 March 1952 is entirely correct. The source of the difficulty lies in the insufficient recognition of executive leaders of the fact that our newspapers are the directors of practical work and the best instruments for elevating the political and ideological level of cadres. Although the hospital had subscribed to many newspapers, we had not sufficiently concentrated on enforcing newspaper reading and had not organized a regular newspaper reading system. Therefore, many workers were totally ignorant of important national and international political matters which should have been brought to their attention.

To thoroughly correct such political indifference, we have decided to raise our subscription quota for those offices with comparatively few papers and to regularize current affairs examinations. At present, after having read the Letters to the Editor criticism, many of the hospital personnel have been organized into newspaper reading sections, and a schedule for reading and study has been arranged.

The apolitical tendencies of nurses are being changed: at present, the head nurse in surgery personally directs the nurses in daily readings. There remain several offices, however, in which there is insufficient regard for the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao criticism. These have consequently failed to correct the condition of disregard for reading. We are now arranging a system whereby they will be organized and all hospital employees will be required to read and study regularly.

The Peiping party paper had also criticized the ignorance of hospital personnel concerning the Chi K'ai-fu Incident. As stated above, this condition is universally prevalent among our nurses. Some doctors with a high regard for newspaper study were cognizant of this important political matter. -- Administrative Office, Peiping Municipal Hospital No 3

7. Peiping Union Medical College Inaugurates Newspaper Reading System

Comrade Editor:

After the 22 March 1952 exposure of the Peiping Union Medical College shortcomings in political indoctrination, the college leaders promptly carried

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out complete confessions and drafted a program for reform. They prompted personnel to confess and initiated a criticism and self-criticism campaign to meet the erroneous tendency of indifference to newspaper reading.

This is the present state of reform in the college:

- a. The newspaper subscription quota has been raised from 25 to 83.
- b. Personnel have been assigned to newspaper reading sections in which papers are daily read for at least one-half hour and discussion on important matters is encouraged.
- c. Examinations on current affairs have been instituted to enforce and assist in newspaper study.
- d. Responsible individuals have been given the task of clipping important articles, or portions thereof, from the daily papers and posting them on the main entrance, in the dining room, and at other prominent points in the buildings.

The hospital authorities have gone so far as to draw up plans for newspaper reading among patients. -- News Organization, Peiping Union Medical College

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